

IN THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1-2. This sheet, which includes Figs. 1-2, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 1-2. In Figure 1, the separate elements have been connected by a bracket to designate all the elements as one complete figure. Figures 1-2 have been amended removed the extraneous written matter; the cross-hatching pattern for the sealing ring "8"; the cross-hatching for the polyethylene coating "2" and the internal surfaces "12" has been corrected.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated November 28, 2008 having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on February 28, 2009. Please reconsider the amended claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-9 and 12-20 were previously presented for examination. Claims 2, 9-11 and 15-20 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3-8, and 12-14 have been amended and remain pending in the application. No new matter has been added by the preceding amendments. Reconsideration is respectfully requested for reasons presented below.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner points out that an IDS letter was filed on May 18, 2008 without a Form 1449. Contemporaneously with the filing of this response, Applicant is re-filing the IDS together with the Form 1449.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to the Figures 1-2 for a number of reasons as specified in paragraphs 2-7 of the Office Action. The Examiner objected to (i) the extraneous written matter in Figures 1-2; (ii) the separated elements within the same figure; (iii) the cross-hatching pattern for the sealing ring "8"; and (iv) the cross-hatching for the polyethylene coating "2" and the internal surfaces "12". Applicant has corrected the drawings as recommended by the Examiner for each of Figures 1-2.

The Examiner also objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "15" has been used to designate both a joint and an axial location. Applicant has amended the specification to correct this error. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Specification

The Examiner objected to the Abstract and various informalities in the specification. Applicant has amended the Abstract and corrected the informalities in the specification as required. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 15-20 because of certain informalities. In particular, claims 1 and 4 have been rewritten setting forth a plurality of elements or steps pursuant to 37 CFR 1.75(i). Claim 4 has been amended to delete the word "the" when referencing "the lip." Claim 5 has been amended to delete the word "the" in each reference to the "heat sink member." Claim 8 has been amended to delete reference to claims 5-7, 12 or 14 as such the plural of the word "claim" is no longer necessary. Claims 2, 9-11, and 15-20 have been cancelled.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 101

The Examiner rejected claims 9 and 15-20 under 35 USC 101 because they improperly embrace both product or machine and process. Claims 9 and 15-20 have been cancelled by this amendment.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 112

The Examiner rejected claims 1-9 and 12-20 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 4, and 12 to address each of the Examiner's rejections. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Examiner also rejected claims 9 and 15-20 as being "ambiguously constructed and indeterminate in scope...." Claims 9 and 15-20 have been cancelled by this amendment.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 8, 12 and 13 (claim 2 has been cancelled) under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Stromsoe (U.S. Patent No. 2,273,154).

However, the Examiner does not disclose a reference number or description in Stromsoe that discloses an elastomeric sealing ring disposed in a circumferential groove of the socket as recited in amended claim 1. In fact, Stromsoe does not disclose a sealing ring at all.

The Examiner further contends that Stromsoe discloses a "heat sink member" and directs the Applicant to reference number 6 in the Stromsoe drawings. However, reference 6 of Stromsoe discloses a "peripherally extending flange member 6 adapted...to extend concentrically toward [of] the bell portion 3" (see col 2 lines 44-47). Furthermore, Stromsoe discloses that "[t]he welding operation which joins the pipe sections 1 and 2 in the field is conducted at the position of overlap of the bell section 3 with the flange member 6, as indicated at 15, providing an annularly extending welded ring which may be made fluid tight" (see col. 4 lines 26-33). However, amended claim 1 recites that the heat sink member 9 is a metal band having a substantially rectangular cross section attached to and extending circumferentially around the spigot 4. There is no mention in Stromsoe that the flange member 6 is a heat sink nor is there any disclosure that the heat sink has a substantially rectangular cross section.

In addition, amended claim 1 includes the limitation of "a weld joint region disposed along said socket between said lip and said welding location, said weld joint region formed in an area between a portion of said lip, said heat sink member and said spigot, said weld region being remote from the sealing ring wherein said sealing ring prevents fluid from entering the weld joint region." Support for this amendment can be found at least in the Specification at page 4, lines 1-5 and in Figures 1-2. Stromsoe arguably discloses area A shown in Figs. 3 and 4. However, area A is defined between bell portion 3 and flange member 6 and is not a region disposed between lip 13 and welding location 7, nor is the weld region "remote from the sealing ring wherein said sealing ring prevents fluid from entering the weld joint region" as recited in amended claim 1. For at least the foregoing reasons, each and every limitation of amended claim 1 is not found in Stromsoe. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is not anticipated by Stromsoe.

The Examiner rejected claim 4 also in view of Stromsoe. However, claim 4 includes the limitation of "forming a groove in the socket to provide a seat for a sealing ring." First, Stromsoe does not disclose a sealing ring. Reference 3 of Stromsoe refers to a "bell portion"

not a circumferential groove and certainly does not disclose a sealing ring positioned within the groove. In addition, amended claim 1 includes the limitation of "forming a weld joint region disposed along said socket between said lip and said welding location, said weld joint region formed in an area between a portion of said extension, said heat sink member and said spigot, said weld region being remote from the sealing ring wherein said sealing ring prevents fluid from entering the weld joint region." Again, as stated above Stromsoe arguably discloses area A shown in Figs. 3 and 4, but certainly does not disclose that the weld region is remote from the sealing ring since Stromsoe doesn't disclose a sealing ring.

Thus, Stromsoe does not disclose each and every limitation of amended claims 1 or 4. In view of the preceding amendment and arguments related to claims 1 and 4, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 1 and 4 are traversed. Since the remaining claims 3, 5-8 and 12-14 depend either directly or indirectly from claims 1 or 4, Applicant submits that the claims are in condition for allowance.

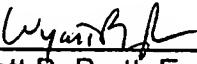
Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

The Examiner rejected claims 7 and 14 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stromsoe. Claim 7 depends from claim 6 which depends from amended claim 4. Since claim 4 has not been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) in view of Stromsoe, Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection. The Examiner also rejected claim 14 in view of Stromsoe. Claim 14 has been cancelled by this Amendment. Accordingly, the rejections under 35 USC 103(a) are respectfully traversed or moot.

In view of the preceding amendments to the claims and the Remarks associated therewith, Applicant respectfully submits that the claim rejections are traversed and the presently pending claims 1, 3-8 and 12-14 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner is in disagreement with the above, Applicant respectfully requests the benefit of a telephonic interview. If privilege of an interview is granted, the undersigned may be contacted by telephone. Applicant conditionally petitions for any extensions of time to address the possibility that the need for such extension, not accounted for herein, is required.

Respectfully submitted

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